

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 707

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: EXTREMISTS COLLABORATE IN MOUNTING PROTEST
ON PRISON CONDITIONS

1. INMATE PROTESTS OVER LAUNDRY AND FOOD CONDITIONS INSIDE LONG KESH MAZE PRISON MOUNTED DURING WEEK. INITIAL REJECTION OF BEDDING LAUNDRY BY HANGING SHEETS ON WIRE SURROUNDING COMPOUNDS FOLLOWED BY HURLING OF FOOD IN COSTLY CONTAINERS BACK OVER WIRE LED TO ESCALATING SPIRAL OF COUNTER MEASURES BY AUTHORITIES AND MOUNTING TENSION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PRISON. BY SEPT. 13 IMPORTATION OF FOOD PARCELS AND VISITS BY INMATES FAMILIES HAD BEEN SUSPENDED. LATTER MEASURE REPORTEDLY AROSE FROM REFUSAL GUARDS WALK THROUGH GARBAGE TO CONDUCT VISITORS. INFORMATION FROM ONE INMATE INDICATES ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) PROVISIONAL IRA (PROVOS) PRISONERS COLLABORATING ON PROTEST. OFFICIAL IRA OUT OF COMMUNICATION BUT FOLLOWING OTHERS LEAD IN ACTIONS.

2. PEACEFUL SYMPATHY DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE PRISON BEGAN SEPT. 10 WITH EVENING RUSH HOUR BLOCKAGE SEVERAL MAIN ARTERIES LEADING OUT OF DOWNTOWNBELFAST BY UDA ADHERENTS. SEPT. 11
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MARCHING DEMONSTRATION BY REPUBLICAN CLUBS OCCURRED IN

DOWNTOWN AREA FOLLOWED BY MORE TIE UP EVENING TRAFFIC THROUGH REPUBLICAN AND LOYALIST AREAS. TOMMY LYTTLE, UDA LEADER DENIED THERE HAD BEEN CONSULTATION BETWEEN OPPOSING GROUPS BUT THERE STRONG CONTRARY INDICATION IN COINCIDENCES OF TACTICS AND TIMING.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS PROMINENT POLITICAL FIGURES INCLUDING IAN PAISLEY AND BRIAN FAULKNER MAKING INQUIRIES AND VISITS TO PRISON. GLENN BARR UDA SPOKESMAN LED DELEGATION IN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF STATE DONALDSON SEPT. 12. PROVISIONAL IRA HAS MADE UNVEILED THREAT TO RETALIATE ON PRISON EMPLOYEES IF THEY DO NOT SUPPORT PRISONER DEMANDS.

4. EXAMINATION WHOLE QUESTION INTERNMENT INTENSIFYING RECENTLY AS LOYALIST ELEMENTS BEGINNING FEEL RELATIVELY NEW PRESSURE FROM ACCRETION DETENTIONS THEIR SYMPATHIZERS. SO FAR HOWEVER PRISON AND STREET DEMONSTRATIONS CONFINED TO PROTEST OVER PRISON CONDITIONS.
SPICER

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